

## **Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 71**

### **RESOLUTION CHAPTER 107**

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 71—Relative to the Milton La Malfa Memorial Highway.

[Filed with Secretary of State September 23, 2009.]

#### **LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

ACR 71, Nielsen. Milton La Malfa Memorial Highway.

This measure would designate a specified portion of State Highway Route 99 in Oroville as the Milton La Malfa Memorial Highway. The measure would also request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost of appropriate signs showing this special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering that cost, to erect those signs.

WHEREAS, It was with immense sadness and a deep sense of loss that word was received of the death of Milton Joseph La Malfa on October 5, 2008, a distinguished Californian whose character and deeds in life merit gratitude and respectful acknowledgment by the people of the state; and

WHEREAS, Born in San Jose, California, to Tony and Marge La Malfa on February 22, 1937, Milton La Malfa was raised and lived nearly his entire life in Richvale, California, on the farm that his Italian grandfather, Giuseppe La Malfa, purchased in 1931; and

WHEREAS, Earning a degree in agriculture/business from Fresno State University in 1959, Milton La Malfa married Karon Myers of Oroville, California, in 1958, and their union was blessed with three children, Doug, Sherry, and Lisa; and

WHEREAS, An individual of profound faith, Milton La Malfa was a source of spiritual inspiration for his family, and he helped nurture the character of each generation and taught the important values that have enabled them to succeed in our complex society and to develop and sustain their faith and community spirit; and

WHEREAS, Distinguishing himself as a prominent rice farmer in the area, Milton La Malfa worked with his father to level the ground in the 1950s and 1960s, taming new acreage and improving irrigation methods of rice; Milton La Malfa was also involved with experimental projects through the rice experiment station, where he worked on fertilizer and herbicide studies to improve rice production and yields and grew foundation seed rice, and in 1960, a small rice dryer was built on the ranch for seed rice storage and isolation; and

WHEREAS, In addition to utilizing his outstanding talent and skills as an innovative thinker in his farming operation, Milton La Malfa shared his

wise counsel in numerous capacities on a broad range of public and private organizations, including several rice industry organizations; and

WHEREAS, A leader in every sense of the word, Milton La Malfa provided leadership and results-oriented vision as a director of the Butte County Rice Growers Association from 1973 to 1975 and again from 1981 to 1986, as well as secretary-treasurer for four years and chair for one year; Milton La Malfa also served with distinction as a director of Associated Rice Marketing Cooperative from 1988 to 1993, serving as chair for one year, and also gave his time as director of the Richvale Seed Growers for many years; and

WHEREAS, Demonstrating a deep commitment to water and the needs of the farmer throughout his life, Milton La Malfa was instrumental in organizing local farmers in 1985 to form the Western Canal Water Users Association, which initiated the negotiations with Pacific Gas and Electric to purchase the water rights and conveyance system for the farmers in the area, and he subsequently became Director of the Western Canal Water District (formed from the Western Canal Water Users Association) and also served as its president; and

WHEREAS, Milton La Malfa also contributed extensively as a director of Drainage District 200 and was on the Board of the Northern California Water Association, which is the advocacy arm of the water districts in Sacramento; and

WHEREAS, Milton La Malfa was recognized for his leadership in rice propagation, development, and in securing water for California rice's future, and was nationally awarded the prestigious 2008 Rice Farmer of the Year Award by the USA Rice Federation; and

WHEREAS, Admired and appreciated for his kindness, generosity of spirit, love of family, passion for working to make the world a better place, and genuine capacity to share his time and talents with others, Milton La Malfa was dedicated to philanthropy in his personal life, and his many contributions to the community will not be forgotten; and

WHEREAS, A lifelong member of the Richvale Evangelical Free Church, Milton La Malfa served as a trustee on the church board for several years, and he will be remembered throughout the community as a friend and confidant by the many persons whose lives he touched; and

WHEREAS, During his lifetime, Milton La Malfa enjoyed water skiing and boating, a little golfing and fly-fishing, travel with a few other couples, and especially spending time at Lake Almanor, both in the lake or playing board games with the family; and

WHEREAS, Milton La Malfa recently celebrated his 50th wedding anniversary with his wife, Karon, and is survived by his children, Doug and Jill La Malfa, Sherry and Scott Smith, and Lisa and Kalin Koehnen; his seven grandchildren; and his brother, Anthony La Malfa Jr.; and

WHEREAS, The high esteem in which Milton La Malfa was held by his loving family, his numerous friends, and other individuals fortunate enough to have known him stands as a testament for others who strive for the best

in their personal, professional, and community life, and his memory will live forever in the hearts and minds of those people who knew him; and

WHEREAS, For those reasons, the Legislature wishes to express its deepest sympathy at the passing of Milton La Malfa and, by this resolution, memorializes him for his illustrious record of personal, professional, and civic achievements, as well as the love and devotion he gave to his family and friends; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring,* That the portion of the State Highway Route 99 between Oroville Dam Boulevard West and Nelson Avenue in Oroville is hereby designated the Milton La Malfa Memorial Highway; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Department of Transportation is requested to determine the cost of appropriate signs, consistent with the signing requirements for the state highway system, showing the special designation and, upon receiving donations from nonstate sources covering that cost, to erect those signs; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit a copy of this resolution to the Director of Transportation and to the author for distribution.